



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

June 9, 1998

**H.R. 3811
Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998**

As cleared by the Congress on June 5, 1998

H.R. 3811 would establish federal felony violations for the failure to pay child support. Violators would be subject to imprisonment, fines, and mandatory restitution of the unpaid child support. Because enacting H.R. 3811 could affect direct spending and receipts through the collection and spending of additional fines, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates that the annual effects on direct spending and receipts would be negligible.

Because those prosecuted and convicted of failing to fulfill their child support obligations could be subject to fines, the government might collect additional fines if H.R. 3811 is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts, or revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in the following year. Any additional collections from enacting H.R. 3811 are likely to be negligible, however, because it is not likely that the federal government would pursue a significant number of additional cases under this bill. Because any increase in direct spending would equal the fines collected with a one-year lag, the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.